

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /127 W

----- 028998

R 241657Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4991

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7196

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, VT, PO, ZA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SPINOLA-LIBERATION MOVEMENT DIALOGUE

REF: LUSAKA 0824 AND 0842 (NOTAL)

1. VATICAN OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR PORTUGUESE AFRICA CONFIRMED TO US MAY 24 THAT MARK CHONA HAD MET WITH ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI LAST WEEK. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, CHONA'S MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO REQUEST HOLY SEE TO USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH GOP TO ENCOURAGE PROMPT OPENING OF DIALOGUE WITH VARIOUS AFRICAN INSURGENT MOVEMENTS. VATICAN HAS ALREADY INSTRUCTED NUNCIO SENSI IN LISBON TO MAKE THIS POINT WITH PORTUGUESE, ALTHOUGH SOURCE OBSERVED THAT HE FELT EFFORT SOMEWHAT SUPERFLUOUS SINCE GOP ALREADY ON RECORD AS BEING WELL-DISPOSED IN THIS REGARD. SOURCE RECALLED THAT HOLY SEE HAD ALSO FREQUENTLY ENCOURAGED FORMER PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT TO MEET WITH REBEL LEADERS. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID, IT SEEMS REBEL GROUPS, ESPECIALLY FRELIMO, LESS DISPOSED TO ENTER DIALOGUE THAN PORTUGUESE, AND IN VATICAN VIEW, CONFIDENTIAL

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AFRICAN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA, ARE IN

BETTER POSITION TO PRESSURE REBEL LEADERS TO MEET WITH PROTUGUESE
THAN IS HOLY SEE.

2. WHEN ASKED WHAT POSSIBLE ROLE HOLY SEE COULD PLAY, SOURCE
SAID CHURCH MAINLY LIMITED TO ENCOURAGING AND EXHORTING PARTIES
TO SEEK MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SOLUTIONS RATHER THAN TAKING ACTIVE
MEDIATORY ROLE, BUT WOULD NOT SAY WHETHER CHONA SUGGESTED TO
CASAROLI THAT VATICAN ACT AS MEDIATOR. SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT
VATICAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES HAD NO CONTACTS WITH
PORTUGUESE INSURGENT LEADERS AND DID NOT INTEND TO CLUTIVATE ANY.
CHONA SEEMED TO RECOGNIZE THIS AND ONLY SOUGHT VATICAN INTER-
VENTION WITH GOP. SOURCE DID ALLOW, HOWEVER, THAT SHOULD ANY
REBEL LEADERS SEEK OUT VATICAN OFFICIALS EITHER IN ROME OR ABROAD--
SOMETHING WHICH TO DATE HAS NOT HAPPENED--VATICAN WOULD COUNSEL
MODERATION AND ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE IN SAME TONE IT USING WITH PORTUGUE
SE.

3. MUSING ON A POSSIBLE SCENARIO OF FUTURE EVENTS IN PORTUGUESE
AFRICA, SOURCE SAID HE COULD NOT IMAGINE PORTUGUESE RESUMING
SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIVITIES. REALIZATION OF THIS HAS QUITE
LIKELY LED LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS TO TAKE A FIRMED STAND
VIS-A-VIS EVENTUAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOP, WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION
PAIGC. IN LONG RUN SOURCE FELT PERSONALLY THAT PORTUGUESE WOULD
HAVE TO SETTLE AT BEST FOR SOME SORT OF COMMONWEALTH ARRANGEMENT
LIMITED TO PRESERVING LINGUISTIC, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC TIES.
IN MOXAMBIQUE, HOWEVER, EVEN THIS MIGHT PROVE IMPOSSIBLE, HE
SAID.

4. SOURCE COULD NOT FORESEE POSSIBILITY OF SOUTH AFRICANS OR
RHODESIANS MOVING INTO MOZAMBIQUE MILITARILY TO FILL VOID CREATED
BY POSSIBLE PORTUGUESE WITHDRAWAL. HE BELIEVES THAT BOTH WHITE
REGIMES, ESPECIALLY RHODESIA, ARE SPREAD SUFFICIENTLY THIN AND
TIED DOWN TO SUCH A DEGREE WITH THEIR OWN PROBLEMS THAT THEY
COULD NOT CONTEMPLATE SENDING SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF TROOPS INTO
NEIGHBORING PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. COMMENT: OUT COLLEAGUES IN
BRITISH LEGATION TO HOLY SEE ALSO OPINE THAT SOUTH AFRICAN OR
RHODESIAN INTERVENTION VERY IMPROBABLE, AND THEY MAY POSSIBLY
HAVE EXPRESSED THIS EVALUATION TO VATICAN.VOLPE

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